



**CITY OF BURLINGTON  
BOARD OF HEALTH**  
645 Pine Street, Ste. A | PO Box 849  
Burlington, VT 05402-0849

PHONE: (802) 863-0442  
FAX: (802) 652-4221

## BOARD OF HEALTH

Caroline Tassey, APRN Interim Chair; Mary D. Hart, RN; Julie Hathaway, MD, PhD; Celia Bird, APRN, Ian McHale, MPH;

## HEALTH OFFICER

William Ward, Director of Permitting & Inspections

### **DRAFT MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING OF BURLINGTON BOARD OF HEALTH Zoom Conference Thursday, October 8, 2020 at 6:30 PM**

**Attending:** *Caroline Tassey, William Ward, Mary Hart, Ian McHale, Celia Bird, Celeste Crowley*

**Absent:** *Julie Hathaway*

Meeting called to order by Interim Chair Tassey at 6:30 PM

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION TAKEN
1. Approvals: a. Agenda b. Approval of July Minutes	a. No changes to the agenda . b. September minutes approved as is.	Ian motioned, Celia 2 <sup>nd</sup> . Approved as is.  Mary motioned, Ian 2 <sup>nd</sup> . Approved as is.
2. Public Forum	Martha Lang – stated that she is opposed to the winter fire permitting being proposed in the city.	
3. Update from Arborist VJ Comai	VJ educated the Board about the Emerald Ash Borer and the steps taken to safeguard trees in Burlington as well as Vermont.  It is the premier threat that pest control companies try to eradicate. Most companies use an injection method that is typically reapplied every two years. Minute holes are drilled into the base of the trunk at the bulb near the ground. Back flow preventer spikes are inserted into the holes, then the pesticide is injected. The pesticide targets the	Mary motioned to approve application; Ian 2 <sup>nd</sup> . Application approved.  Ian and Celia will have a mocked up version for everyone to review.

	<p>vascular tissue of the tree which carries the pesticide throughout the whole tree.</p> <p>He discussed other types of applications such as a bark application or a foliage application. Neither are recommended ways to apply pesticides. There is too much risk that the pesticide will wash into the soil, or blow into neighboring areas during application.</p> <p>The most common and recommended herbicide to use contains the active ingredient of Emmanacetin Benzoate.</p> <p>The USDA recommends no herbicide application until the Emerald Ash Borer is found within 15 miles of an area.</p> <p>The majority of Burlington's Ash trees are in the buffer zone which means. The Emerald Ash Borer was just spotted in the Rutland area. This means that sooner than later we will begin to see an uptick in pesticide applications being submitted to the Board of Health.</p>	
4. Revisions to the Pesticide Application	<p>The City Arborist, VJ, also reviewed the proposed revisions to the Pesticide Application.</p> <p>After a brief discussion, he was in favor of the amendments to the application.</p>	
5. City Council Referral on Resolution to allow permits for safe operation of contained fires during Covid-19 winter.	<p>Chief Locke joined the meeting to discuss the permitting process and where the Fire Department stands on this resolution. He began by reviewing the current ordinance for outdoor fires. There are many factors involved with</p>	

	<p>issuing outdoor fire permits; type of fuel being used, where fire will be located (has to be 25 ft from any structure), type of fire pit, and weather as factors.</p> <p>He is not opposed to issuing winter permits but wanted to have the discussion with the Board of Health to assess smoke as a winter health hazard.</p> <p>The board discussed the health concerns with winter burning; smoke particles (air quality) affecting residents/neighbors with existing breathing or health issues, would FD ensure use of clean wood as opposed to painted or treated woods, are their alternative ways to socialize without backyard fire pits, how would neighborhoods who do not meet the fire ordinance take part in this type of social gathering, is the environmental impact and fire risk worth the emotional benefit.</p> <p>Board members discussed equity disparities that the ordinance could create by allowing only certain neighborhoods to participate.</p> <p>The Board of Health will be drafting a recommendation to the City Council, which will be reviewed and voted on at a special Board of Health meeting on Thursday October 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm.</p>	
<p>6. Chair Report</p> <p>a. Marijuana Card</p> <p>b. Hepatitis A</p>	<p>No new updates or information on the two agenda items.</p> <p>Caroline did mention that Margaret, from the Lead Program, emailed to let us know that the program was awarded a three year grant. This will allow the program to continue educating, and making properties safe from</p>	

	lead hazards in the Burlington and Winooski communities.	
7. Eradicating Systemic Racism	<p>As part of our ongoing discussion, Celia reviewed the two major topics, that we will be focused on, as collecting data and how is the Board of Health incorporating Systemic Racism in its conversations and meetings.</p> <p>The winter permitting of outdoor fires did include one of our goals by reviewing how some neighborhoods will not be able to partake in the outdoor fire gatherings. Partly due to the City's ordinance, and partly due to the location of neighborhoods where equity disparities are more prevalent.</p>	
8. Emerging Issues	No emerging issues cited at this time.	
9. Public Outreach / Communications a. Front Porch Forum	<p>Front Porch Forum – it was discussed that the November post will highlight the Lead Program.</p> <p>Mask Handout Events –</p>	
10. Next Meeting	Thursday, October 15, at 6:30pm	Meet via Zoom
11. Adjournment	Meeting was adjourned at 8:23pm	Mary motioned, Celia 2 <sup>nd</sup> .